



# Species

ISSUE 64

## 2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



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## The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)

The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is a science-based network of thousands of volunteer experts from almost every country of the world, all working together toward achieving the vision of “a just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to both prevent the loss and aid recovery of the diversity of life on earth.”

Members of SSC belong to one or more of near 200 Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities, Action Partnerships, Task Forces, and Conservation Committees that make up the Network, each focusing on a taxonomic group (plants, fungi, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, and invertebrates), national species, or a disciplinary issue, such as sustainable use and livelihoods, translocation of species, wildlife health, climate change, and conservation planning.

Framed by the Species Conservation Cycle, SSC’s major role is to provide information to IUCN on biodiversity conservation, the inherent value of species, their role in ecosystem health and functioning, the provision of ecosystem services, and their support to human livelihoods. This information is fed into the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

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### 2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan

The IUCN Species Strategic Plan encompasses the joint work of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and a number of partnerships to achieve more than 2,700 targets proposed by the Network during the 2021-2025 quadrennium.

To accomplish those targets, the Species Conservation Cycle was established, which is the conceptual framework for the Network activities. The Species Conservation Cycle’s main purpose is to guide efforts for valuing and conserving biodiversity through three essential components that are linked to each other:

**ASSESS:** Understand and inform the world about the status and trends of biodiversity.

**PLAN:** Develop collaborative, inclusive and science-based conservation strategies, plans and policies.

**ACT:** Convene and mobilise conservation actions to improve the status of biodiversity.



Their implementation requires two transversal components:

**NETWORK:** Enhance and support our immediate network and alliances to achieve our biodiversity targets.

**COMMUNICATE:** Drive strategic and targeted communications to enhance our conservation impact.

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### SSC Species Report

Annual progress in the implementation of the 2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan is documented in the SSC *Species Report*, which consists of a comprehensive description and analysis of the activities and results generated by the members of the SSC Network and Centers for Species Survival (CSS) each year. Each SSC and CSS group contributes to this document by providing a yearly summarised description of their achievements, which is presented in stand-alone reports.

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## Structure of the IUCN SSC and CSS Stand-alone Reports

Stand-alone reports summarize the activities conducted and results generated by each group member of the SSC and CSS. Following, is the structure of the stand-alone report and the contents under each session.

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### Title of the group

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### Photograph(s) of the Chair/Co-Chairs

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### Group information

Includes names of Chair/Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Deputy Chairs, Red List Authority Coordinators, Program Officers, Species Survival Directors, and Species Survival Officers, their institutional affiliations, number of members and social networks currently active.

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### Logo of the group

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### Mission statement

Includes the mission of the group.

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### Projected impact for the 2021-2025 quadrennium

Includes the description of the impact on species conservation resulting from the implementation of the targets formulated by the group for the 2021-2025 quadrennium.

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### Targets for the 2021-2025 quadrennium

Includes the targets planned by the SSC or CSS group for the 2021-2025 quadrennium ordered alphabetically by component of the Species Conservation Cycle. Each target is labeled with a numerical code (e.g., T-001, T-012) that identifies it in the SSC DATA database and its status for the reported year is indicated (Not initiated, On track or Achieved).

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### Activities and results

Includes the targets for which activities were conducted and results were generated during the reported year, ordered alphabetically, first by component of the Species Conservation Cycle, and second by Activity Category. Description of activities and results includes the indicator that best describes progress, its associated quantitative or qualitative result, and the narrative description of the activity conducted or result obtained. Each activity or result reported is linked to the Key Species Result to which it is mainly associated (e.g., KSR#1, KSR#5).

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### Acknowledgements

Includes the acknowledgements to funding agencies, partners, and persons who contributed to the progress of the targets of the group.

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### Summary of achievements

Summarises information of the group's strategic plan for the quadrennium and progress achieved implementing targets for all the components of the Species Conservation Cycle during the reported year.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

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### Example for the recommended citation:

Superina, M. 2024. 2023 Report of the Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group. In: IUCN SSC and Secretariat. *2023 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 8 pp.

## 2023 Report

# IUCN SSC Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group



**CHAIR**  
Mariella Superina  
IMBECU — CCT CONICET  
Mendoza, Mendoza,  
Argentina

**RED LIST AUTHORITY  
COORDINATOR**  
Agustin Manuel Abba  
CEPAVE — CCT CONICET  
La Plata, La Plata,  
Argentina

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS**  
30

#### SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @xenarthrans  
Instagram: @iucn\_anteater\_sloth\_armadillo  
Websites: <https://xenarthrans.org>  
<https://pygmysloth.org>  
<https://perezosopigmeo.org>  
Youtube: @xenarthrans

### Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Specialist Group is to promote the long-term conservation of the extant species of xenarthrans (Anteaters, Sloths and Armadillos) and their habitats.

### Projected impact 2021–2025

By the end of 2025, we envision we will have achieved increased protection for our priority species. We aim to reach this goal by reviewing and endorsing existing national or regional action plans as well as supporting the development and implementation of comprehensive action plans for xenarthrans. Capacity building through training courses will allow us to increase the number of researchers dedicated to conservation-relevant research on Anteaters, Sloths and Armadillos. We predict that our awareness campaigns will increase the knowledge about our species and their conservation problems among the general public, especially the impact of illegal trade and the use of xenarthrans as exotic pets.

### Targets 2021–2025

#### ASSESS

**T-001** Complete global Red List assessments of recently described Xenarthra species by 2022.  
Status: On track

**T-002** Complete global Red List reassessments of all Xenarthra species by 2022.  
Status: On track

**T-004** Facilitate assessments of other taxa for the IUCN Red List.  
Status: On track

#### PLAN

**T-006** Develop an Action Plan for Pygmy Sloths (*Bradypus pygmaeus*) by 2022.  
Status: On track

#### ACT

**T-011** Review and endorse existing national or regional action plans for Xenarthra.  
Status: Not initiated

#### NETWORK

**T-003** Establish one new formal partnership that will provide financial and institutional support to the Specialist Group by 2025.  
Status: Achieved

**T-005** Recruit new members from underrepresented range countries by 2023.  
Status: On track

**T-010** Build capacity through courses on the biology and conservation of Xenarthra in range countries.  
Status: On track

#### COMMUNICATE

**T-007** Publish four annual issues of our newsletter and journal *Edentata*.  
Status: On track

**T-008** Raise awareness about the illegal trade of Xenarthra.  
Status: On track

**T-009** Strengthen our Specialist Group's outreach and education strategies.  
Status: On track

**T-013** Issue a position paper about the use of xenarthrans as pets.  
Status: Not initiated

### Activities and results 2023

#### ASSESS Red List

**T-001** Complete global Red List assessments of recently described Xenarthra species by 2022. (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 2

Result description: A taxonomic review published in 2022 proposed to split the northern and southern subpopulations of the Maned Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus torquatus*) into two species, *B. torquatus* and *B. crinitus*. After our taxonomy subcommittee accepted this change, we assessed the conservation status of these two species.

**T-002** Complete global Red List reassessments of all Xenarthra species by 2022. (KSR 6)

Number of global Red List reassessments completed: 6



Pichi (*Zaedyus pichiy*)  
Photo: Guillermo Ferraris

Result description: In 2023 the reassessments of the six sloth species were included in the Red List of Threatened Species.

**T-004 Facilitate assessments of other taxa for the IUCN Red List.** (KSR 6)

Number of support activities in assessment processes for other taxa: 3

Result description: In 2023, we supported the assessment process of the mammals of Uruguay, and the bees and fish of Colombia.

## PLAN

### Planning

**T-006 Develop an Action Plan for Pygmy Sloths (*B. pygmaeus*) by 2022.** (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 1

Result description: The action plan for Pygmy Sloths is being reviewed.

## NETWORK

### Synergy

**T-003 Establish one new formal partnership that will provide financial and institutional support to the Specialist Group by 2025.** (KSR 1)

Number of 'in kind' partnerships established and maintained: 2

Result description: The support of our partners FIAA and Nurtured by Nature has been key to strengthening our education and awareness programs.

## Capacity building

**T-010 Build capacity through courses on the biology and conservation of Xenarthra in range countries.** (KSR 3)

Number of courses taught: 1.

Result description: In 2023, our member Flávia Miranda organized the 11th edition of the International Training Course for Working with Wildlife, which was held in the Pantanal of Brazil. Our Chair participated as an instructor. Among many other things, the 29 participants learned about the IUCN, Red List assessments and action planning. In terms of Xenarthra biology and conservation, they learned about research techniques, the threats affecting xenarthrans, and conservation programs such as the Orphans of Fire rescue program for Giant Anteaters in the Pantanal and the Armadillo Conservation Program in the Llanos of Colombia. They also had hands-on experiences with Giant Anteaters. The course will be repeated next year, and we hope it encourages more young professionals to do conservation-related research on xenarthrans.

### Membership

**T-005 Recruit new members from underrepresented range countries by 2023.** (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 1

Result description: To increase the diversity of backgrounds and expertise, we have included an education specialist as a member of our Specialist Group.

## COMMUNICATE

### Communication

**T-007 Publish four annual issues of our newsletter and journal *Edentata*.** (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 1

Result description: Because *Edentata* is a taxonomically incorrect name for Anteaters, Sloths and Armadillos, we decided to correct the name of our journal to *Xenarthra*. In parallel, we decided to publish articles in their final version, with their corresponding DOIs, as soon as they have been accepted for publication instead of compiling an annual issue. We took the opportunity to improve several details of our journal, e.g. by updating the instructions for authors and improving the website so that individual articles have better visibility. In addition, we adjusted the journal description on the homepage to conform to Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) requirements. The first articles in this new format are already available on our [website](#).

**T-008 Raise awareness about the illegal trade of *Xenarthra*.** (KSR 12)



Giant Anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*)  
Photo: Cristian Von Reitze - FIAA

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 10

Result description: Thanks to our new education coordinator, we have published a range of social media posts to raise awareness about Xenarthra conservation and illegal trade. We have also sent a letter of intervention to the authorities of Peru to express our concern about the increase in wildlife exports, especially of Sloths and Anteaters that have been extracted from the wild.

**T-009 Strengthen our Specialist Group's outreach and education strategies. (KSR 13)**

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 200

Result description: This year we have put a lot of time and energy into strengthening our Specialist Group's outreach and education strategies. We have increased our presence on social media through regular posts on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). Our education coordinator Kenny Cooga organized 12 webinars with experts on a range of topics related to Xenarthra conservation, which have received a lot of attention both live and on our [YouTube](#) channel. More importantly, we have added a new section to our website that provides

information on [xenarthrans for kids](#). The section includes a map of the Americas, where the kids can click on a country to see a list of xenarthrans that live there. By clicking on a species, they access data on the species' morphology, threats, conservation status, and how they can help safeguard those species. The texts are written in a simple language and accompanied with illustrations and photographs. All content is available in English, Spanish and Portuguese, to a total of 195 pages of new content on the education section of our website. Last, but not least, we have designed a collection of apparel, accessories and mugs with illustrations of xenarthrans that we are [offering online](#). Profits made from our collection will be used to support our education initiatives.

SSC Grant awarded

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### **Acknowledgements**

We are extremely grateful to our partner institutions FIAA and Nurtured by Nature for their constant support and encouragement. We would like to take the opportunity to thank all stakeholders for their enthusiastic participation, and especially our member Diorene Smith for leading the action plan for Pygmy Sloths. The new section to our website that provides information on [xenarthrans for kids](#) was made possible thanks to many hours of work by our education



Northern Long-nosed Armadillo (*Dasypus sabanicola*)  
 Photo: Mariella Superina

coordinator Kenny Coogan and our Chair Mariella Superina; the generous support of our partners Nurtured by Nature and FIAA, and to an SSC Internal Grant. We would like to thank Gabriela Hidalgo, Scholarly Communications Librarian from IUCN's Knowledge Management and Library Team, for all her help during the transition process of our journal to *Xenarthra*. We are also grateful to our graphics designer Gabriela Ruellan for designing the new website for our journal. We would like to thank all members of our Specialist Group and volunteers who have helped create the content by providing information or images or helping translate the texts.

### Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021–2025:** 12

**Geographic regions:** 2 Global, 10 America

Actions during 2023:

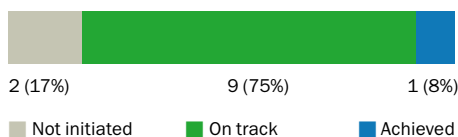
Assess: 3 (KSR 6)

Plan: 1 (KSR 8)

Network: 3 (KSR 1, 2, 3)

Communicate: 3 (KSR 12, 13)

**Overall achievement 2021–2025:**



■ Not initiated    ■ On track    ■ Achieved



*Nothobranchius fuscotaeniatus*  
Photo: Csenge Nagy



*Tetra Parnaiba*  
Photo: Karina Molina



*Trioceros hoehnelii*  
Photo: Christopher V. Anderson



*Sternberia lutea*  
Photo: Hayri Duman



*Egretta rufescens*  
Photo: Ernesto Gómez



*Lactifluus neotropicus*  
Photo: Aida Vasco



Mayfly nymph (*Ecdyonurus* sp.)  
Photo: Astrid Schmidt-Kloiber and Wolfram Graf